

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) 1. A group of isolated ~~homologous~~ cellular growth stimulating proteins designated gastrokines, said proteins ~~produced by~~ obtainable from gastric epithelial cells and ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of an amino acid ~~the amino acids~~ in the sequence VKEK/QKXXGKGPGGXPPK (SEQ ID NO: 1).

2. (Currently Amended) An isolated protein ~~having a sequence of amino acids~~ consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence from positions 21 to 185 of the sequence as shown in FIG. 8 (SEQ ID NO: 18), said protein ~~present in~~ obtainable from pig gastric epithelia in a processed form lacking the 20 amino acids which constitute a signal peptide sequence, ~~having 165 amino acids and an estimated molecular weight of approximately 18 kD as measured by polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, said protein capable of being secreted.~~

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An isolated~~ A recombinant human protein comprising ~~amino acids in the~~ an amino acid sequence as in FIG. 3 (SEQ ID NO: 13).

4. (Currently Amended) An isolated protein ~~comprising amino acids in the~~ consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence as in FIG. 6 (SEQ ID NO: 16)

5. (Currently Amended) A growth stimulating peptide derived from a protein consisting of an amino acid sequence VKEK/QKXXGKGPGGXPPK (SEQ ID NO: 1) ~~of claim 1.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A modified peptide produced by the method comprising the following steps:

- (a) eliminating major protease sites in an unmodified peptide consisting of an amino acid sequence VKEK/QKXXGKGPGGXPPK (SEQ ID NO: 1) by amino acid substitution or deletion in the unmodified peptide ~~derived from a protein of claim 1;~~ and
- (b) optionally introducing amino acid analogs of amino acids or D-amino acids in the unmodified peptide.

7. (Original-allowed) A synthetic growth stimulating peptide, having a sequence of amino acids as in positions 78 to 119 of the sequence shown in FIG. 3 (SEQ ID NO: 13).

8. (Original-allowed) A synthetic growth stimulating peptide having a sequence of amino acids from position 97 to position 117 as shown in FIG. 3 (SEQ ID NO: 13)

9. (Original-allowed) A synthetic growth stimulating peptide having a sequence of amino acids from position 97 to position 121 as shown in FIG. 3 (SEQ ID NO: 13).

10. (Original-allowed) A synthetic growth stimulating peptide having a sequence of amino acids from position 104 to position 117 as shown in FIG. 3 (SEQ ID NO: 13).

11. (Currently Amended-previously allowed) An isolated bioactive peptide consisting of a sequence of amino acids selected from the group consisting of LDTMVKEQKGKGPGGAPPKDLMY (SEQ ID NO: 2) and KKLQGKGPGGPPPK (SEQ ID NO: 3).

Claim 12 (Previously Withdrawn)

13. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~used for the treatment of ulcers, said composition~~ including at least a growth stimulating peptide of claim 5.

14. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~for the treatment of diseases associated with overgrowth of gastric epithelia, said compositions~~ comprising an inhibitor of a protein of the group of claim 1 or an inhibitor of a growth stimulating peptide of claim 5.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claims 16-21 (Previously Withdrawn)

Claim 22 (Canceled)

Claims 23-26 (Previously Withdrawn)

Claims 27-29 (Canceled)